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Contributed Notes

THE ASSYRIAN ROOT *rašānu*, HEBREW רָאָן

In Assyrian we have to do with two roots *rašānu* (I) to murmur, rumble, and (II) to be dignified, important. Root I occurs to my knowledge only in *Cuneiform Tablets of the British Museum*, XXV, 16, 26, where Adad has the epithet *murtašnu* synonym of *rāgimu* and *mur-ta-i-mu*.¹ *mur-ta-aš-nu*, I² Part. of *rašānu* is probably connected with the Syriac and Arabic root رָטַן to murmur. The Assyrian replaces the emphatic dental *t* by the alveolar emphatic *ṣ*. The same phenomenon is exhibited by the word *kašāru* to bind, identical with Hebrew קָשַׁר. The change has probably been brought about by the forward and backward assimilating power of the liquid *r*. Note the change of *s* > *ṣ* and *ṭ* > *t* brought about by the *r*-sound in Arabic dialects, cited in Brockelmann's *Vergleichende Grammatik*, p. 155.

Root II occurs only in the adjective *ruṣṣunu*, important, dignified, which Professor Prince connected with Hebrew רָאָן "honorable, noble." This explanation of Prince has not received the recognition which it deserves either among Assyriologists or Hebraists. The difficulty has been that the Assyrian grammarians apparently connected *ruṣṣunu* with a group of words for "important," etc., as well as with a group for "bright, clean," etc., and consequently the lexicons give no definite information concerning the word. In fact the Assyrian grammarians do not really connect the word with a group meaning "bright," and the only legitimate meaning to be assigned to the word is "dignified, important," as Prince maintained. For *ruṣṣunu* the grammarians give the following information. Sumerian *gal*² = *ruṣṣunu* syn. of *malû*, full, Syl. C I, 41. [*ru*]ṣṣunu = *išānu* [variant *ruṣṣunu* = *kaḫtu*], "mighty, dignified." CT, XVIII, 27, 19. A different form of the word is *ur-zu-nu* = *ḫarradu*, "mighty, heroic," *ibid.*, 7, 30. *ru-uṣ-ṣu-nu* = *ba-nu-u*, *mu-us-su-u*, in a list of words for "mighty" *elum*, *ši-it*-[*pu*]-*ṣu*, "valiant," *ibid.*, 18, K. 4587 obv. 5 f.³ It has been erroneously supposed that *banû* and *mussû* are words for "clean, washed," but this is not at all probable in this instance. *mussû* is here the same word as *massû*, "chief, leader," a loan-word from *mas*

¹ I² Part. of רָעַם to thunder, ultimately connected with *ragāmu*, due to the change of gutturals ג > ר.

² Variant of *gal* = *rabû*.

³ K. 206, a list for *bêlu*, *beltum*, probably belongs to this tablet.

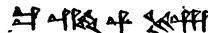
"goat" and *su(g)* "to lead," literally "leading-goat."⁴ In addition to the literature cited in the note see also *PSBA* (1909), Pl. VI, 12. Tammuz *mas-si-e māti*, "T. the noble of the earth." The change *massû* > *mussû* is due to the labial *m*. Note that in II R. 47*ab* 15 *maš-šu* = *ašaridu* = *amelu* *MAS-SÚ(G)-TUK*.⁵

In regard to *banû*, "honorable," etc., our evidence is based only on the passage quoted. If we are not to assume an unknown root for *banû* (= *ruššunu*) the most probable explanation would be to identify it with *banû*, Prs. Part. of *banû*, to create. Note *mar ba-ni-i*, "noble," *mar bānûte*, "nobles," Delitzsch, *HWB*, 178*b*, and Klauber, *Assyrisches Beamtentum*, p. 59, n. 3.

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⁴ See *Babyloniaca*, II, 113, and III, 78; also Scheil, *Text. El.-Sem.*, VI, 34, 27.

⁵ Line 14 has another (?) word *maš-šu* = *kakku* "weapon, baton," for which the Sumerian is partly broken away, but contains *MAS-SÚ-ILA*, "which the chief carries." *maššu* = *kakku*, here, is probably the same word as *maš-ši* in the cartouche before the face of Šamaš, V R. 60. We should, then, following Jastrow and Scheil (see Muss-Arnolt, *Lexicon*, 597) translate "crown of Šamaš, baton and ring of *PP* i.e., Šamaš." Naturally we have to do with the same word in *išû* *GI-MAŠ(?) -SÚ(D)-SÚ(D)* = *maš-šu-u*, pole, stake, Syn. *gašišu*, *ZA*, IX, 220, 17. It is probable that II R. 47*a*, 14, and *ZA*, *ibid.*, restore each other mutually and that the true reading is 

 in II R. for which *ZA*, 220 has probably . For *muššu* = breast, Sm. 1981, 24, see now *Babyloniaca*, IV, 191. Also K. 11185, 3 *AGAN* = [muš-]šu Syn. *tulû* and *irtu*, and *CT*, XII, 19*a*, 5. For its connection with  "udder," *OLZ* (1910), sp. 491. *muššu*, ring-worm (?), in *CT*, XXVIII, 29, 20, possibly a loan-word from *muš*, serpent. A word *maššû ša ameli* =  in *CT*, XII, 17*a*, 16, may be, perhaps, identical with *muššu*, breast.